

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: POSTERS IN PEKING

SUMMARY: ADDITIONAL POSTERS PUT UP IN PEKING REVEAL EFFORTS BY AUTHORITIES TO RESTRAIN CRITICISM, CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF WANG HUNG-WEN AND WORKERS IN MOVEMENT, AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON THE SUPPRESSION OF "REBEL FACTIONS" IN LATER STAGES OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

1. POSTERS CONTINUE TO GO UP IN PEKING IN THE VICINITY OF THE PEKING MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS BUT TOTAL VISIBLE TO FOREIGNERS IN ALL OF PEKING PROBABLY STILL REMAINS UNDER THIRTY. MOST INTERESTING NEW POSTERS ARE THOSE WRITTEN BY EARLIER CRITICS OF THE PEKING COMMITTEE CHARGING THAT THEY HAD BEEN HARRASSED BY PEOPLE (UNSPECIFIED) WHO VISITED THEM ON MONDAY FOLLOWING POSTING OF CRITICISM ON SUNDAY.

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THESE COMPLAINTS, PLUS THE LIMITED NUMBERS OF POSTERS

AND THE TEARING DOWN OF THOSE CRITICAL OF POLITBURO MEMBER
HUA KUO-FENG, MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT SEVERE LIMITS
REMAIN ON THE CAMPAIGN IN PEKING.

2. WORKERS ARE THE MAIN COMPOSERS OF POSTERS WHICH
FOREIGNERS ARE ALLOWED TO SEE AND MOST OF THE NEW ONES
DEAL WITH PROBLEMS WITHIN SPECIFIC FACTORIES. EMPHASIS
CONTINUES TO BE PLACED ON WANG HUNG-WEN AND HIS
SPEECH TO THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS, PARTICULARLY IN A
NEW POSTER BY HSUEH PAO-JEN, THE WRITER OF MANY OF THE
EARLIER SMALL POSTERS. (HSUEH, A WOMAN IN HER LATE FORTIES
OR FIFTIES, WAS SEEN PERSONALLY PUTTING UP THIS LATEST
POSTER AND REWRITING A TORN PORTION OF THE TEXT.) THIS
EMPHASIS ON WANG HUNG-WEN HAS ALSO BEEN EVIDENT IN PEKING'S
BOOK STORES OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS WHERE HIS REPORT IS
APPEARING IN ITS LITTLE RED BOOK VERSION IN A DISPLAY BY
ITSELF SIMILAR TO THE FASHION EARLIER IN SHANHAI.

3. NEW POSTERS ALSO ELABORATE ON THEME OF SUPPRESSION OF
THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION'S "REBEL FACTIONS". ONE, BY A 1965
TECHNICAL SCHOOL GRADUATE ASSIGNED AS A WORKER AT THE
PEKING TRANSPORT COMPANY, RELATES THAT FIVE MEMBERS OF
HIS "REBEL FACTION" (TSAO FAN P'AI) HAD BEEN SENT DOWN
FOR "LABOR" (CLEARLY MEANING LABOR REFORM) DURING THE
MOVEMENT AGAINST EXTREME LEFTISTS. LATER, DURING THE
DRIVE AGAINST 516 ELEMENTS, THESE PLUS TEN OTHER MEMBERS OF
THE "REBEL FACTION" WERE SENT TO AN APPARENTLY NOTORIOUS
STUDY SCHOOL WHERE THEY WERE TORTURED, BEATEN AND DEPRIVED
OF SLEEP. THE WRITER SAYS THAT 200 OF THE 300 MEMBERS OF
THE "REBEL FACTION" IN HIS UNIT WERE BRANDED "COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARY, 516 ELEMENTS" DURING THIS PERIOD AND UNDER
THIS "WHITE TERROR" ONE OLDER WORKER COMMITTED SUICIDE WHILE
OTHERS APPARENTLY ATTEMPTED SUICIDE UNSUCCESSFULLY. ANOTHER
POSTER OMITTS SUCH COLORFUL DETAILS BUT SAYS THE SAME PROCESS
OCCURRED IN PEKING'S FIFTH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. THE WRITER
STATES THAT ALL MASS REPRESENTATIVES PUT ON THE COMPANY'S
REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE WHEN IT WAS SET UP IN THE SECOND
HALF OF 1967 HAD BEEN ELIMINATED BY 1970.

4. SOME POSTERS SEEM INTENDED PRIMARILY TO LET OFF STEAM.
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CROWD OF CHINESE READERS WAS PARTICULARLY HEAVY AROUND ONE
POSTER CONTAINING PERSONAL COMPLAINTS BY SZECHUANESSE
WHO CLAIMED THAT HE HAD BEEN SICK AND FORCED TO PAY FOR HIS
OWN TRANSPORTATION TO HOSPITAL IN NANKING. HE BROUGHT HIS
PROBLEMS TO AUTHORITIES IN PEKING BUT WAS BEATEN AND JAILED
RATHER THAN RECEIVING SATISFACTION AND HE CLAIMED THAT IF HE DID
NOT FIND HELP SOON, HE "WAS GOING TO DIE". HIS POSTER MAY BE
THE NEAREST THING TO SOAP OPERA THE CHINESE HAVE SEEN PUBLICLY

DISPLAYED FOR YEARS.
HOLDRIDGE

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